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INFORMATION,
PREVENTION AND
TREATMENT REFERRALS, AND
OTHER RESOURCES ARE
AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY
FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
INFORMATION AND
EDUCATION HELPLINE/
THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION.

800-327-5050
(TOLL-FREE; MULTI-LINGUAL)
TTY: 617-536-5872
WWW.HELPLINE-ONLINE.COM

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AND STATISTICS ARE
AVAILABLE FROM:

- Massachusetts Youth Health Survey, October 2002
www.state.ma.us/dph/bsas
- Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey
www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/yrbs/01/results.pdf
- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University
www.casacolumbia.org
- Monitoring the Future, Overview of Key Findings 2002
www.monitoringthefuture.org
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov
- Parents. The Anti Drug
www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America
www.drugfreeamerica.org
- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.health.org

Be the first to **TALK WITH YOUR PRE-TEEN**
about **ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, and other DRUGS**

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

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HEROIN

► **WHAT IS IT?**

- Drug produced from morphine, a substance extracted from poppy plants
- Looks like white to dark-brown powder or substance like tar
- Can be smoked, snorted, or injected
- Also called smack, horse, mud, junk, black tar, Big H, skag

► **STATISTICS**

- Heroin causes more drug-related deaths than any other illicit drug.
- 16% of 8th graders say heroin is easy to obtain.

► **RISKS**

- Death, even at first use
- May contain substances that clog blood vessels
- HIV/AIDS or hepatitis transmitted by shared needles
- Pneumonia, other infections, liver disease
- Nausea, constipation
- Addiction (smoking or snorting heroin are as dangerous and addictive as injecting it)

► **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- Needles, spoons (may be charred), bottle caps
- Unusual happiness ("rush")
- Flushed skin, dry mouth
- Drowsiness, nodding off
- Staggering, confusion, slow or slurred speech
- Nausea
- Constricted pupils, watery eyes
- Itching
- Needle marks on the skin, infections
- Slow, shallow breathing; clammy skin; convulsions; coma (signs of overdose—call 911/emergency immediately)

CLICK
HERE
FOR

**SOURCES
OF
STATISTICS**